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J. D. DUNSHEE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin

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# *The Population Prospect and Some Agricultural Implications*

## THE NATIONAL POPULATION PROSPECT

In 1924 about 2,900,000 children were born in the United States. Each year since a decrease has been recorded, except in 1930 and probably the past year, 1934. The decrease during the decade has exceeded 20 per cent. This decrease in births averaged 55,000 a year from 1924 to 1930 and 100,000 a year from 1930 to 1933. How long will this decline continue and what does it mean to American agriculture?

The trends in both the United States and in Europe suggest that this decline in births will continue for many years, though probably at a slower rate than during the depression. The birth rate in the United States (but not number of births) has been declining for more than a century. The decline started in southern New England, with the building of the factories, about the year 1800, and spread with the development of industries and growth of the cities, until now only in a few counties located in the southern Appalachian Mountains is it as high as it was in the Nation as a whole in 1800. The Nation's birth rate is only about one-third as large now as it was a century and a third ago.

Although the birth rate per 1000 population has been declining for more than a century, the total number of births did not trend downward until 1922, because there was each year an increase in number of mothers, the heritage of the higher birth rate and heavy immigration of the past. Now number of births as well as birth rate is decreasing, and a declining population is ultimately inevitable, unless the birth rate rises or immigration increases greatly. If the decline in births continues at the predepression rate of 55,000 a year, the population of the Nation will increase slowly for about ten years, when there will be perhaps 5,000,000 more people in the Nation than at present, and will soon after start to decline, provided there is no increase in immigration from abroad. In northwestern Europe population has already reached the peak and will start to decline within a few years, unless births or immigrants increase. The peak in number of births in both England and Germany occurred in 1908, or 13 years earlier than in the United States.

The declining birth rate appears to be associated primarily with city life. In agriculture the family is the economic unit, whereas in urban occupations the individual is the economic unit. A wife is almost essential to success in farming, while children can help with the work and probably pay their way from 10 years of age onward. But in the cities a wife brings in little or no cash income unless she works outside the home, while children generally require constant outlay from birth almost until marriage. Moreover, the cost of raising children in the cities is commonly two or three times that in the country. This economic situation is reflected in social ideals. Formerly families having four or five children were common even in the cities. Now, the customary number of children is one or two. But it requires three children per mother to maintain population stationary. Some children die before they marry, others never marry, and some who are married never have children.

The deficit in births is urban. In the large cities of the United States (those over 100,000 population) there are now only about two-thirds enough births to maintain their populations permanently stationary without accessions from outside. In the smaller cities, those of 2500 to 100,000 population, the deficit is 10 to 20 per cent. On the other hand, in the rural nonfarm population (village and suburban) there is about 25 per cent surplus in births and in the farm population nearly 50 per cent surplus. In every State the birth rate, as measured by the number of children under 5 to women 15 to 44 years of age, is lower in the urban than in the rural population, and this is true also of every country of Europe for which statistics are available; also of Australia, New Zealand and Japan. This urban influence is not confined to capitalistic countries. In Russia the rural birth rate is about the highest in the world, but in Russian cities the decline in young children is already notable.

In the cities the deficit in births is principally among the so-called middle and upper classes. In general, families of professional classes have 5 to 10 per cent fewer children than those of business men, and business men about 25 per cent fewer than skilled workmen, while skilled workmen have 30 per cent fewer than unskilled laborers. The deficit in births in the cities is among the more ambitious and intelligent people. The qualitative aspect of the declining birth rate is fully as significant as the quantitative.

### THE POPULATION PROSPECT, RURAL AND URBAN

Because of the surplus of children in the country and the deficit in the cities, because of progress in agricultural technic which has permitted a stationary number of farmers to feed a rapidly increasing city population, because of a stationary consumption of food per person, while the people's desires for many manufactured goods and various services knows almost no limit, nearly half the young people on the farms were migrating to the cities for at least 20 years prior to the depression. The cities have fed, clothed and educated only about 40 per cent of the youth that started to work each year before the depression in their factories, stores and offices. Twenty per cent were immigrants from foreign lands, and 40 per cent were supplied, almost without cost to the cities, by the fathers and mothers living in the rural regions of the United States.

This migration of rural youth to the cities is now greatly diminished. Indeed, during the depression more people have returned to the farms than have left the farms. Fully 2,000,000 young people are now backed up on farms who would under predepression conditions have migrated to the cities. While the population of the large cities remains stationary or declines, the farm population, which decreased from 1920 to 1930, is now increasing rapidly.

Moreover, whereas the farm population was growing older prior to the depression, because of the migration of half the youth, it is now growing younger. And the city populations, which were then growing younger, are now growing older. Between 1920 and 1930 the number of people over 65 years of age increased 50 per cent in the urban population, and this increase will continue for several decades. There are manyfold more middle-aged than old people in the cities, and very few are returning to the farms seeking shelter and sustenance—most of their parents and relatives are dead. As these middle-aged people grow old, the aged in the cities will increase rapidly. At the same time the number of youth will decline, unless migration from the farms is resumed. And the surplus rural youth can no longer counterbalance the urban deficit.

The youth on the farms are also growing older and beginning to establish homes. The farm schedules from the 1935 census of agriculture have now been returned for over 900 counties—nearly one-third of the total—and they indicate an increase since 1930 of about 10 per cent in the number of farms in the Nation. The area of crop and pasture land undoubtedly has decreased. Many farms, apparently, are being divided. Agricultural production also has decreased. Production per worker evidently is falling, instead of rising, as in the past. But it is better to produce less than to produce nothing at all, as is true of many urban unemployed.

### AGRICULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECLINING BIRTH RATE

There are three profound implications for agriculture in the population prospect:

1. An almost stationary domestic demand or need for farm products during the next decade or two. The population of the Nation is nearly stationary. Aggregate consumption per person of farm products has been practically stationary for at least a third of a century. Moreover, exports of farm products appear to have reached a new and lower level.

2. If migration from the farms to the cities is not resumed in numbers approaching predepression magnitude, there will soon be a decreasing urban popula-

tion (unless urban births or immigrants increase) and an increasing farm population. This means, first, a decreasing commercial and increasing noncommercial consumption of farm products. It means, secondly, an increasing number of farms and probably decreasing acreage per farm. It means, thirdly, a lower standard of living for many farmers, unless they produce themselves more of the things they have been accustomed to buy.

3. If migration from the farms to the cities is resumed it will hasten the decline in the national population, and in resultant requirements for farm products. It will merely postpone the inevitable adjustment in the economic activities and social ideals of the farming people.—A radio talk by Dr. O. E. Baker, of the Bureau of Agriculture Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## AS TO THOROUGHBREDS

When we say a man or a woman we know is a thoroughbred, we pay to him or her the greatest compliment of which we are capable. There is not in the vocabulary of pleasant terms a stronger word.

Visit a stock farm, the home of high-grade horses or cattle, and you will see that the physical signs of the thoroughbred are fine eyes and an erect bearing. These are the symbols of a high, generous spirit.

The keeper of the stock farm will tell you that a thoroughbred never whines. One illustrated this to me by swinging a dog around by the tail. The creature was in pain, but no sound escaped from him. "You see," said the keeper, "they never complain. It ain't in 'em. Same way when a stable burns. It ain't the best horses that scream when they're burnin'. It's the worst."

All this is quite as true of the human thoroughbred. The visible signs of the invisible spirit are the eyes that are steady and shoulders that are straight. No burden except possibly the weight of many years bend his shoulders and his eyes meet yours in honest fashion, because he neither fears, nor has been ashamed at the bar of his own soul.

He never complains. He keeps this troubles to himself, having discovered as thoroughbreds do, that to tell troubles is to multiply them, and to lock them in the breast is to diminish and finally end them. He never talks about what Fate has done to him. He knows he is master of his own destiny. He never bewails the treatment he has received from another, for he knows no one can do him lasting harm except himself.—Ada Patterson.

## NEW HEALTH OFFICER AT DUNSMUIR

Mr. F. R. Daw has been appointed city health officer of Dunsmuir to succeed Mr. T. B. Wright.

Develop capacity for selection and discrimination of mental food.

## WESTERN BRANCH A. P. H. A. WILL MEET IN HELENA

The sixth annual meeting of the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association will be held at Helena, Montana, July 1, 2 and 3. Public health matters of special interest to the West will be discussed, and a program of unusual value is being arranged by Dr. W. F. Cogswell, State Health Officer of Montana, president elect of the western branch, and chairman of the Committee on Meetings and Publications.

Public health problems among western Indians; peculiarities of western water and sewage disposal systems; new plans for public health developments by the Federal government; latest advances in the control of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, undulant fever, tularemia, silicosis, psittacosis; home nursing of communicable diseases; various aspects of tuberculosis; and modern advances in health education are among the subjects to be discussed. Among the distinguished guests expected are Miss Katherine Lenroot, U. S. Children's Bureau; Miss Josephine Roche, Third Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Dr. Thomas R. Crowder, Chief Surgeon of the Pullman Company; Dr. A. J. Chesley, State Health Officer of Minnesota; Dr. Thomas A. Parran, Health Commissioner of New York; Dr. E. L. Bishop, Medical Director of the Tennessee Valley Authority; Mrs. Helen LaMalle, Superintendent of Nursing, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York City, and others.

The meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Montana State Medical Association.

Other ways may fail, but one can always tell a second-rate man by the quality of his emotions. The laughter and the tears of a second-rate man are divining rods that no university training, social experience, worldly culture or tailor, can hide—George Jean Nathan.

## MORBIDITY

### Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending April 13, 1935

**Chickenpox**

1205 cases: Alameda County 11, Alameda 11, Albany 13, Berkeley 19, Emeryville 1, Oakland 110, Piedmont 2, Amador County 13, Butte County 1, Angels Camp 1, Contra Costa County 5, Richmond 1, Placerville 1, Fresno County 20, Fresno 2, Orland 2, Humboldt County 5, Imperial County 12, Calexico 1, Inyo County 1, Bishop 3, Kern County 21, Bakersfield 1, Taft 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles County 83, Alhambra 6, Beverly Hills 25, Burbank 3, Claremont 1, Compton 15, Culver City 5, El Segundo 1, Glendale 7, Inglewood 4, Long Beach 23, Los Angeles 188, Pasadena 8, Pomona 6, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 9, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 7, Lynwood 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 3, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Madera County 4, Madera 1, San Rafael 4, Merced County 2, Gustine 2, Monterey County 2, Carmel 1, Monterey 1, Salinas 2, Orange County 16, Anaheim 4, Brea 13, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 4, La Habra 1, Riverside County 23, Corona 1, Riverside 11, Sacramento County 7, Sacramento 28, San Bernardino County 2, Colton 10, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 3, Coronado 1, El Cajon 1, National City 1, San Diego 103, San Francisco 143, San Joaquin County 6, Stockton 24, San Luis Obispo County 13, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 1, Daly City 2, Redwood City 2, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 2, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 6, San Jose 2, Sunnyvale 11, Willow Glen 5, Santa Cruz 6, Watsonville 2, Vallejo 2, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 26, Newman 3, Turlock 9, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 12, Ventura 3, Yolo County 1.

**Diphtheria**

21 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 1, Calexico 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 7, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Coronado 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 2, Belmont 1, Corning 1.

**German Measles**

1058 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 2, Berkeley 1, Hayward 2, Oakland 76, San Leandro 4, Amador County 1, Chico 4, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 69, Fresno 2, Reedley 1, Humboldt County 4, Calexico 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 79, Alhambra 4, Burbank 2, Compton 2, Covina 1, Culver City 1, El Monte 3, El Segundo 3, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 8, Inglewood 3, Long Beach 12, Los Angeles 115, Pasadena 7, Pomona 3, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 1, Sierra Madre 2, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 23, Torrance 3, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 2, Maywood 3, Bell 3, Marin County 2, Corte Madera 2, San Rafael 9, Monterey County 3, Grass Valley 2, Orange County 9, Brea 8, Huntington Beach 3, Santa Ana 11, La Habra 1, Laguna Beach 2, Riverside County 23, Beaumont 8, Sacramento 4, Colton 3, Ontario 5, Redlands 1, San Diego County 4, La Mesa 6, National City 1, San Diego 31, San Francisco 138, San Joaquin County 7, Manteca 2, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo County 2, Arroyo Grande 1, San Mateo County 3, Burlingame 5, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 4, Santa Barbara County 2, Lompoc 8, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 91, Gilroy 2, Los Gatos 17, Mountain View 8, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 109, Santa Clara 1, Sunnyvale 6, Willow Glen 13, Santa Cruz 2, Shasta County 2, Stanislaus County 1, Newman 14, Red Bluff 2, Ventura County 8, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 1, Davis 1.

**Influenza**

63 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Fresno County 2, Lake County 2, Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 4, Los Angeles 32, Manhattan 1, Whittier 2, South Gate 1, Monterey 1, Beaumont 1, Corona 2, Riverside 5, Hollister 1, San Francisco 1.

**Measles**

1923 cases: Alameda County 38, Albany 4, Berkeley 45, Oakland 13, San Leandro 1, Amador County 1, Butte County 1, Chico 2, Calaveras County 2, Angels Camp 2, Colusa County 3, Contra Costa County 4, Concord 1, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 34, Fresno 103, Orland 1, Humboldt County 11, Brawley 1, Kern County 74, Taft 2, Kings County 39, Hanford 17, Lemoore 22, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 15, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 5, Burbank 1, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 86, Los Angeles 64, Montebello 9, Pasadena 2, Pomona 2, San Fernando 1, Whittier 1, Maywood 1, Madera County 10, Chowchilla 1, Corte Madera 1, Point Arena 23, Merced County 49, Gustine 1, Los Banos 10, Merced 21, Monterey 1, Salinas 7, Nevada County 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 48, Anaheim 62, Brea 36, Fullerton 16, Orange 62, Santa Ana 47, La Habra 2, Placentia 11, Riverside 4, Beaumont 3, Sacramento County 5, Sacramento 111, Hollister 3, San Juan Bautista 6, San Bernardino County 12, Chino 3, Colton 3, San Bernardino 3, Coronado 4, San Diego 18, San Francisco 24, San Joaquin County 108, Manteca 7, Stockton 193, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo County 68, Arroyo Grande 14, Paso Robles 1, San Luis Obispo 3, San Mateo County 1, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 1, South San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara County 13, Lompoc 5, Santa Maria 8, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 21, Santa Cruz County 11, Santa Cruz 169, Watsonville 11, Shasta County 1, Siskiyou County 5, Yreka 4, Vallejo 1, Santa Rosa 7, Stanislaus County 2, Ceres 1, Newman 4, Turlock 5, Riverbank 1, Tulare County 2, Lindsay 3, Tuolumne County 2, Ventura County 7, Ventura 3, Yolo County 8, Davis 3.

**Mumps**

380 cases: Alameda County 12, Alameda 4, Berkeley 2, Hayward 5, Oakland 46, San Leandro 7, Amador County 1, Calaveras County 2, Contra Costa County 3, Fresno County 2, Fresno 2, Kern County 5, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Azusa 11, Burbank 9, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 17, Monrovia 1, Pomona 1, San Fernando 2, San Rafael 6, Merced County 13, Merced 1, Riverside County 2, Beaumont 2, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 16, San Bernardino County 6, San Diego 9, San Francisco 11, San Joaquin County 7, Stockton 11, Tracy 13, San Luis Obispo County 9, Arroyo Grande 7, San Luis Obispo 5, Santa Barbara County 14, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 22, Gilroy 6, Mountain View 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Santa Cruz 14, Tulare County 4, Lindsay 8, Sonora 26, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 15, Woodland 4.

**Pneumonia (Lobar)**

53 cases: Alameda County 2, Oakland 4, Selma 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 18, Santa Monica 2, Marin County 1, Monterey County 1, Monterey 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Corona 1, Sacramento County 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 7, San Luis Obispo County 1, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 1.

**Scarlet Fever**

269 cases: Alameda 1, Oakland 10, Piedmont 1, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 4, El Dorado County 1, Placerville 2, Fresno 1, Humboldt County 3, Imperial County 4, Calipatria 2, Kern County 2, Lakeport 1, Los Angeles County 16, Burbank 3, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 3, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 53, Pasadena 3, Pomona 6, San Fernando 3, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 1, Gardena 1, Merced County 2, St. Helena 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, La Habra 1, Placer County 17, Auburn 1, Riverside County 5, Beaumont 2, Corona 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 8, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino County 7, Colton 5, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 6, National City 3, San Diego 13, San Francisco 18, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 3, Tracy 2, Daly City 1, Redwood City 1, Colma 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz 1, Siskiyou County 10, Vallejo 1, Petaluma 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 2, Ventura 3, Yuba County 3.

**Smallpox**

4 cases: Los Angeles 1, San Bernardino County 2, California 1.*

**Typhoid Fever**

6 cases: El Dorado County 2, Imperial County 1, Mendocino County 1, San Francisco 1, Ventura County 1.

**Whooping Cough**

215 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 8, Oakland 2, Piedmont 10, Los Angeles County 17, Alhambra 4, Burbank 3, Glendale 8, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 11, Santa Monica 2, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 6, San Rafael 6, Orange County 1, Huntington Beach 2, Santa Ana 11, Beaumont 1, Corona 3, Chino 2, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 5, National City 15, San Diego 7, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 6, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 4, Redwood City 1, South San Francisco 1, Belmont 1, Santa Barbara County 10, Santa Clara County 8, Los Gatos 2, Mountain View 10, Palo Alto 9, Willow Glen 6, Ventura 3, Yuba City 1.

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

9 cases: Oakland 2, Reedley 1, Los Angeles 4, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1.

**Dysentery (Amoebic)**

4 cases: Oakland 1, Riverside County 1, San Bernardino County 1, Palo Alto 1.

**Dysentery (Bacillary)**

One case: reported by San Francisco, from Burma, India.

**Pellagra**

2 cases: San Bernardino County 1, San Luis Obispo County 1.

**Poliomyelitis**

7 cases: Bishop 1, Los Angeles County 2, Whittier 1, Bell 1, San Francisco 1, Ventura County 1.

**Trachoma**

37 cases: Inyo County 24, Bishop 11, California 2.*

**Undulant Fever**

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Pomona 1.

**Actinomycosis**

One case: San Francisco.

**Coccidioidal Granuloma**

One case: Los Angeles County.

**Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)**

One case: Lake County.

**Rabies (Animal)**

40 cases: Brawley 1, Los Angeles County 9, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 14, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 1, San Diego 10, Stockton 2.

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* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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